THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Special care has been taken by the Railways to provide security to women passengers. Special squads in the form of Surakshni, Tejaswani, Durgavahni and Bhairavi consisting of lady Railway Protection Force constables and lady ticket examiners have been deployed in the affected areas of Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Patna sub-urban sections. Further, armed Govemment Railway Police personnel are also escorting ladies compartment in night hours over Mumbai sub-urban sections. Additional railway Protection Force staff have been posted in affected section to enhance security of women passengers.

(b) In all the passenger carrying trains, one compartment or such number of berths/seats, as required, are earmarked for the exclusive use of ladies.

(c) For appointment as Ticket Collector on Railways, both men and women can apply. No earmarking is done on the basis of gender.

(d) Railway Protection Force has 575 women staff.

Port Link Track

†2000. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has introduced any special scheme named as Port Link Track for fast and time bound transportation of goods related to import-export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the ports for which the said scheme has been introduced, so far;

(d) to what extent it would boost the import and export; and

(e) to what extent Railways would get benefit from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.